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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4209

November 29, 2011

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARYSUBCOMMITTEES:
COURTS, COMMERCIAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW—RANKING MEMBER
CRIME, TERRORISM, AND
HOMELAND SECURITY**COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**SUBCOMMITTEES:
AVIATION
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) enters a critical period in its review and recommendations regarding the important Lifeline and Link Up programs, I am writing, once again, on behalf of thousands of my constituents and millions throughout the United States who are fighting for survival during this difficult economy.

Specifically, I read with interest that some businesses in the private sector are taking the lead in offering solutions to address the issue of duplications and waste in these programs. Engaging a third party, at their cost, to quickly develop a system whereby duplications can be detected on the front end would be a major step to address head-on the questions of abuse.

As I have stated before, the long-term goal of the Obama administration and the FCC to ensure universal access to broadband is crucial. I just hope that in this effort we don't make it more difficult for our poorest citizens to have access to the most basic electronic needs: telephone service.

I understand from one study that as many as 42% of those participating in the Lifeline and Link Up programs have never had telephone service. It would, therefore, be a major step backward to severely limit the number of people who so desperately need this opportunity.

I appreciate your attention to this important issue.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

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How do come
1/6/29*

STEVE COHEN
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WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE
FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE: 11/29/11

TO: Chairman Genachowski

FAX #: 202-418-2806

FROM: ☐ Congressman Steve Cohen
☐ Chief of Staff Marilyn Dillihay
☐ Legislative Director Reisha Phills
☐ Office Manager/Scheduler Craig Dulniak
☐ Communications Director Michael Pagan
☒ Sr. Legislative Assistant David Greengrass
☐ Legislative Assistant Paul Moinester
☐ Leg. Asst/Leg. Correspondent Brittany Johnson
☐ Leg. Asst/Leg. Correspondent Michael Fulton
☐ Community Outreach Specialist Taiwo Stanback
☐ Staff Assistant William Connor
☐ DC Intern

1 Pages in addition to the cover sheet.

MESSAGE: A hard copy will follow by mail. Please let
me know if you need any additional
information.



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

July 24, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Steve Cohen
U.S. House of Representatives
1005 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cohen:

Thank you for your letter regarding duplication in the Lifeline Universal Service program. I appreciate your bringing this matter to my attention and have directed the Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau's Telecommunications Access Policy Division to respond. I am pleased to provide the enclosed letter addressing your concerns.

If you have any additional questions or need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski", is written over a horizontal line.

Julius Genachowski

Enclosure



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

July 24, 2012

The Honorable Steve Cohen
U.S. House of Representatives
1005 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cohen:

Thank you for your most recent letter concerning reform of the Universal Service Lifeline program. Specifically, you expressed interest regarding recent efforts to eliminate duplications in the Lifeline program.

Commission action and the industry's constructive engagement are successfully addressing the immediate priority to curb the waste, fraud, and abuse draining needed funds from the Lifeline program and threatening the ability of eligible consumers to receive service. Eligibility databases and a National Lifeline Accountability Database will ease the burden on both carriers and consumers to verify eligibility and prevent service duplication. Along with measures to improve program administration and accountability, the *Order* sets a savings target for 2012 of \$200 million – funds that will remain available for consumers who need Lifeline to connect to basic communication and information services.

Moving forward, the Commission has initiated action to establish the appropriate level of support and adopt a program budget. The *Order and Further Notice* also lays the groundwork for modernizing the Lifeline program to include broadband service, which is critical for low-income Americans to benefit from the twenty-first century economy.

I look forward to working with you further as the Commission continues its efforts to advance access to telecommunications and broadband for all Americans. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T+B/H", is located below the "Sincerely," text.

Trent B. Harkrader
Chief
Telecommunications Access Policy Division
Wireline Competition Bureau